

DITYLENCHUS FILIPJEV, 1936 (NEMATODA): APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS. Z.N.(S.) 1955

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Nearly all the stylet-bearing nematodes now constituting the order TYLENCHIDA Thorne, 1949, were formerly included in a single genus *Tylenchus* Bastian, 1865. Within this genus Micoletzky (1922 : 546, 575) erected the subgenus *Chitinotylenchus*; he gave a diagnosis but did not designate a type-species out of the eight nominal species included. Filipjev (1936) designated as type-species *T.(C.) paragracilis* Micoletzky, 1922, at the same time raising *Chitinotylenchus* to generic rank and emending its definition.

2. In the same paper of 1936 Filipjev divided the old genus *Tylenchus* into a number of genera. Among these was *Ditylenchus* Filipjev, 1936 (: 81-82).

3. In 1970 Sher examined the holotype of *Ch. paragracilis* and transferred the species to *Ditylenchus*. By this action the generic names *Chitinotylenchus* and *Ditylenchus* became synonymous.

4. The publication of *Chitinotylenchus* in 1922 was valid, because prior to 1931 designation of a type-species was not required for a genus-group name to be available (International Code, ed. 1961, Art. 12). According to Art. 43, generic and subgeneric names are co-ordinate. Thus the case under consideration is regulated by Art. 23e(i) and is even identical to the Example given there. Consequently, strict application of the Rules demands that *Chitinotylenchus* be the valid name for the genus called *Ditylenchus* up to now.

5. This change of name would be very unfortunate. The type-species *Ch. paragracilis* has never been reported since the original description and all the other species of *Chitinotylenchus* (sensu Filipjev, 1936) are *species inquirendae*. *Ditylenchus* contains several important plant parasitic species such as the type-species *D. dipsaci* (Kühn, 1857 : 136-137), the stem nematode; *D. destructor* Thorne, 1945, the potato rot nematode, and *D. angustus* (Butler, 1913), the causal agent of the "ufra" disease of rice. The generic name *Ditylenchus* is thus widely known and used not only in zootaxonomic publications, but also in agricultural and economic literature, whereas the name *Chitinotylenchus* has never been used outside the field of nematode taxonomy.

6. Because of the high informative value of the name *Ditylenchus* we are of the opinion that stability is in this case more desirable than strict application of the Rule of Priority. Therefore the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the generic name *Chitinotylenchus* Micoletzky, 1922, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) to place the generic name *Ditylenchus* Filipjev, 1936 (gender: masculine), type-species, by original designation, *Anguillula dipsaci* Kühn, 1857, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;

- (3) to place the specific name *dipsaci* Kühn, 1857, as published in the binomen *Anguillula dipsaci* (type-species of *Ditylenchus* Filipjev, 1936) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

REFERENCES

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